

Cycling tour to Armenia and Georgia

Key information

Duration: 13 days / 12 nights

Best season: May - October

Tour type: Small group / individual (starting from 2 persons)

What's included: transfers from to the airport, accommodation in 3 * hotels / guesthouses, meals: breakfast, bike rental, English speaking cycling guide service, support vehicle with car bike stand, technician service, Areni wine tasting, 24-hour office support

What's not included:

flights, visa fee, medical insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival in Yerevan - Transfer to the hotel - Short City Tour

Day 2 - Yerevan - Hovhanavank Monastery - Saghmosavank Monastery - Gyumri

Day 3 - Gyumri - Armenia - Georgia Border (Bavra) - Akhaltsikhe

Day 4 - Akhaltsikhe - Borjomi - Borjomi city tour

Day 5 - Borjomi - Gori - Mtskheta

Day 6 - Mtskheta - Telavi - Signaghi

Day 7 - Signagi - Tbilisi

Day 8 - Tbilisi Tbilisi city Tour

Day 9 - Tbilisi - Armenia - Georgia Border - Ijevan

Day 10 - Ijevan - Dilijan - Haghartsin Monastery - Sevan Lake - Sevanavank Monastery

Day 11 - Sevan - Selim Pass - Hermon

Day 12 - Hermon - Noravank Monastery - Areni winery - Khor Virap Monastery - Yerevan

Day 13 - Departure



Detailed itinerary

Day 1

After your arrival in Yerevan, you will be transferred to the hotel. Depending on your arrival time you will have a short city tour by bicycle around the ancient capital of Armenia. According to the cuneiform inscription of Urartian King Argishti Yerevan was built in 782 AD. Some decades ago Alexander Tamanyan, the general architect of Yerevan drew the contemporary plan of the city which we can see today. The warm smiles of its inhabitants give the unique charm to this eternal city ancient and so young at the same time.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Cycling: *20 km*

Day 2

After the breakfast you will head to Ashtarak highway by cars from where will start a cycling journey to Gyumri. The city is the regional center and has history dating back at least five thousand years. Geographically it is situated in the Shirak Valley, on the left bank of the Akhuryan river. En your route you will visit Hovhanavank and Saghmosavank monasteries, both dramatically located on the edge of beautiful canyon. You will continue your journey to Aparan by car, where will have a rest. From Aragats mountain you will start a cycling up to Artik city. In the evening you will reach Gyumri where will have a rest and overnight.

Overnight: *Hotel in Gyumri*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *57km*

Day 3

This day you will start your journey in Georgia. After breakfast you will be taken to Armenia- Georgia border (Bavra) by car from where will start a cycling journey to Akhaltsikhe-the capital and biggest town of Samtskhe-Javakheti. Akhaltsikhe means 'New Castle' in Georgian. The landscape of Akhaltsikhe and its surroundings are a combination of fields and hills, and the city itself is divided into two parts: an old city on the hill and a new region on the plain. You will have a rest in Akhaltsikhe, evening stroll in the town, you have chance to taste some delicious Georgian dishes and wines.

Overnight: *Hotel in Akhaltsikhe*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *50 km*

Day 4

After breakfast you will ride to Borjomi by endlessly turning and twisting mountain serpentine surrounded with green forest hills. Borjomi is famous for its mineral waters. Archaeological excavations have revealed the existence of stone baths in the area, proving that these mineral waters have been utilized by people for thousands of years. Here you have great chance to swim in the mineral water pool.

Overnight: *Hotel in Borjomi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *49 km*

Day 5

This day you will continue your journey to Mtskheta, the first capital of Georgia from the 3rd century BC. Nowadays Mtskheta is the religious center of Georgia. Ride bikes from Borjomi to the highway, then you will be driven to Gori, birthplace of Josef Stalin. From Gori ride bikes to Mtskheta through fields, meadows and some small villages around the



road. Take a car drive to the Jvari Church on the hilltop overlooking Mtskheta. Here you will admire on very beautiful view on the junction of rivers Kura and Aragvi.

Overnight: *Hotel in Mtskheta*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *60 km*

Day 6

This day you will have a city tour in Mtskheta. After discovering the town, you will drive to Telavi – town which is the center of Kakheti and is located in the beautiful Alazani Valley. A pleasant time is waiting for you in Signaghi – a royal town founded by the king Erekle II in the 18th century. Strolling around the pebbled streets you will enjoy the local architecture and atmosphere. In the local winery “Pheasant’s Tears” you will have a tour and degustation of Georgian traditional local wine.

Overnight: *Hotel in Signaghi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *52 km*

Day 7

In the morning you will continue your journey from Signaghi to Tbilisi which is the capital and the largest city of Georgia. It’s lying on the banks of the Kura River with a population of approximately 1.5 million people. Founded in the 5th century AD by Vakhtang I Gorgasali, the monarch of the Kingdom of Iberia, Tbilisi since served as the capital of various Georgian kingdoms and republics. In the evening you will drive to the hotel in Tbilisi where will have rest and overnight.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tbilisi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *58 km*

Day 8

This day you will have a city tour in Tbilisi. You will visit the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi – the main Georgian Orthodox Church. Next place to visit is the historic district of Metekhi, where the Assumption Church is located. During the day you will also have a chance to enjoy the beautiful architecture of the Bridge of Peace, designed by a well-known Italian architect. Evening walk in the charming and colorful city with wooden carved balconies, pebbled narrow streets, full of open air cafes, pubs bars.

Overnight: *Hotel in Tbilisi*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *30 km*

Day 9

After discovering the wonderful culture, nature and architecture of Georgia, you will continue a fascinating journey around Armenia. You will be driven to Armenia-Georgia border and after crossing “Sadakhlo” custom you will ride to Ijevan by bicycle. Ijevan is situated in the valley of Aghstev river at an average height of 755 meters above sea level. The surrounding mountains are covered with thick forests, turning into alpine meadows in some areas

Overnight: *Hotel in Ijevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *56 km*



Day 10

After breakfast you will ride to Dilijan, a lush town known as a spa resort. A stroll in the historical district will let you experience the atmosphere of the old town as it was in the 19th century. The imaginatively carved balconies so typical for the 19th century Dilijan display the region's historical love for fine woodwork. Here you will also visit Haghartsin Monastery. In the evening you will drive to Lake Sevan, the "blue pearl of Armenia" and one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world located at about 2000 meters above sea level. Here you will visit Sevanavank monastery which was found in 874 by Princess Mariam.

Overnight: *Hotel at Lake Sevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *66 km*

Day 11

After Breakfast you will start riding alongside of Lake Sevan, which is the second highest freshwater lake in the world, 1900 m above sea. The vehicle will take you up to the Vartenyats pass to a very scenic journey along the section of Great Silk Road. Here you will have an opportunity to see one of the well-preserved caravanserais on the Silk Road. In the evening you will reach Hermon village.

Overnight: *Hotel in Hermon*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *63 km*

Day 12

This day you will continue your journey through a narrow canyon to the valley of red rocks to Noravank Monastery. Then you will drive to one of the largest winemaking areas of Armenia, Arpa River Valley. This region is well known for its endemic sort of grape Areni, the red wine made of this grape. In Areni caves the archaeologists found the oldest winemaking facilities in the world. In the town, you will visit a small winery to taste local wines. From Zangakatun village you will turn from the main road to Urtsadzor village, which is entrance to Khosrov state resort. Your next stop will be Khor Virap Monastery with outstanding view on the Biblical Mount Ararat. In the evening you will drive to Yerevan.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Cycling: *65 km*

Day 13

Transfer to the airport, departure



Booking terms and conditions

Once we received your application, confirmed all tour details with you, we will send a deposit invoice. After the deposit of 50-100 euro per person (depending on the tour price) is received, we will start your hotel reservation and other service booking and will send your Tour Voucher with all the trip details.

Payment Terms

After you have booked the tour, it is necessary to make a non-refundable deposit of 50-100 euros, which will provide our coordinators with the possibility to start organizing a trip (hotel reservation, food, transportation, etc.). Final payment could be made after your arrival in Armenia. We reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply the relevant cancellation charges (detailed below) if we do not receive all payments at the due time.

Cancellation of the tour

If you or a member of your group wants to cancel the tour, please, inform our company as soon as possible in writing form. Please, note that the prepayment (50-100 euros) is non-refundable, however, you can use it throughout the year and book another tour. In this case, our company will have to charge an extra 100 euros for re-booking the hotel.

Rights and obligations

Tours provided by our company are planned for many months before its inception and are not the subject of change or cancellation. Under the obligation of forced circumstances (weather, holidays) we can make some changes in the itinerary, however, all that relates to services and attractions will remain unchanged.

Please note, that our tours require a minimum number of participants – 2 persons. We reserve the right to cancel the trip, if any tour will not have the minimum number of participants. We will inform you about the cancellation of the tour no later than 30 days before the start and will do the full refund of the amount paid, including the prepayment.

We also request immediately and promptly report all complaints and any claims during the tour. If possible, all problems will be solved. If the tourist does not report any complaint, the compensation will not be implemented.

Please, also note that the company AraraTour is not liable for services not included in the tour price. Our responsibility is limited only to the extent provided by our tour.

Force majeure or any other event which is beyond our control and which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part frees both parties from liability or obligation. In case of Force majeure, we don't issue any refund.

Insolvency or bankruptcy insurance

Tour operator Arara guarantees the refund of clients' money for unfulfilled services even in the case of company's own insolvency or bankruptcy.

